

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

March 1, 2010

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jack Black
Commissioner Adam Coggin
Commissioner Gary Farley
Commissioner Jeff Jordan
Commissioner Jeff Phillips
Commissioner Steve Sandlin
Commissioner John Rodgers, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess
Sonya Stephenson
Susan Allen
Justin Carter
Nancy Kelley
Michelle Pauley
Becky Shelton

Chairman Rodgers presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with all members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Coggin moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

ANNOUNCE FOUR VACANCIES ON EQUALIZATION BOARD:

Chairman Rodgers advised the positions of Laughlin Youree, David Adams, Albert Nelson and James O. Baker on the Equalization Board were expiring and accordingly being announced.

APPOINTMENT OF JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER:

The Committee was advised the application of the judicial commissioner was not received.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING UNFUNDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATES AND ADDITIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REQUIREMENTS:

The Committee was provided a Resolution opposing unfunded local government mandates and additions to local government maintenance of effort requirements for consideration in an effort to send a message to the State legislature not to impose unfunded requirements on counties. This is a statewide effort and other counties have approved the same Resolution. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Sandlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Farley, to approve the Resolution Opposing Unfunded Local Government Mandates and Additions to Local Government Maintenance of Effort Requirements and forward the same to the State Legislature. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT:

Sonya Stephenson presented her proposed 10/11 budget for the use and information of the Committee advising it is reduced from last year. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Farley moved, seconded by Commissioner Coggin, to approve the HR Department budget as presented and forward the same to the Budget Committee. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

LEGISLATION ALLOWING CONVERSION TO SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

Mayor Burgess advised there is pending legislation that would allow existing local education agencies to convert to special school districts giving the local School Board independent control of the system's annual budget and allowing that body to levy a local property tax to finance the same. Mayor Burgess advised although this has been presented for several years now at some point it may get some support and needs to be reviewed with a determination of the County's position to convey to our State representatives. Mayor Burgess advised he thought the checks and balance system between the Commission and School Board was healthy. Commissioner Phillips advised he thought this had been studied previously and he did not think citizens were in favor of this change. A joint Resolution may be in order to keep the system as is and not support the change. It was discussed whether the request for discussion should come through the Health & Education Committee or the Mayor's Office. Commissioner J. Jordan suggested the Mayor ask Superintendent Gill to discuss the issue with the School Board to get their reaction and report to the Health & Education Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Sandlin, that Commissioner J. Jordan and Mayor Burgess approach Superintendent Gill on the pending legislation regarding existing local education agencies to convert to special school districts and get the School Board's reaction. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

BOTTLE BILL:

Chairman Rodgers next inquired regarding the Bottle Bill previously referred to the Public Works Committee and was advised the same has not been discussed.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Rodgers declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

JOHN RODGERS, Chairman